

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel) voted Friday afternoon to pass the House Interior Appropriations bill, which will fund the U.S. Department of the Interior for fiscal year 2010. The House version of the bill includes two local projects.

"Both of these projects are important for the region," Rep. Farr said. "Los Padres National Forest is important for both our local tourism industry and for the protection of key watersheds. And the project to limit flood damage on the Lower Carmel River and Lagoon is an vital to keep our homes and businesses safe."

Local projects included in the bill:

- **\$1 million is included in the legislation for high priority purchases of private land within the boundaries of the Los Padres National Forest. This land provides recreation opportunities, supports critical habitat for listed species and protects sensitive watersheds.**

- **\$500,000 is included for floodplain restoration and enhancement of the Lower Carmel River and Lagoon. These funds will be directed to reducing flood damage by significantly limiting risk from future floods.**

- \$1 million is included in the legislation for high priority purchases of private land within the boundaries of the Los Padres National Forest. This land provides recreation opportunities, supports critical habitat for listed species and protects sensitive watersheds.

- \$500,000 is included for floodplain restoration and enhancement of the Lower Carmel River and Lagoon. These funds will be directed to reducing flood damage by significantly limiting risk from future floods.

The bill, which passed Friday afternoon by a vote of 254-173, awaits Senate consideration. Once the Senate acts, the two versions will be reconciled, then sent to the president for signature. This is the third of 12 appropriations bills that will be considered by Congress to fund the federal government.

#